

Letter of Support to the Human Services Committee

Regarding: HB 5355 AAC An Advanced Dental Hygiene Practice Pilot Program

Monday, March 1, 2010

Submitted by: Wanda M. Nelson, RDH, MS

Dear Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and

Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Wanda Nelson and I am a licensed, registered dental hygienist living in the town of Sherman. Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you regarding HB 5355.

I completely support the Establishment of an Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP). In 2000, the US Surgeon General published a report on Oral Health Care in America with the challenge to increase access to care. The American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association have accepted this challenge.

Today, March 2, 2010 is "one decade later" from the Surgeon General's Report. As a profession, we are prepared to offer the best solution to access to care based on an established licensure. Hygienists are already familiar with all phases of dental care delivery, the variety of insurances, safety concerns affecting the patients, scope of practice of other dental providers and the facility. We are cognizant that our patients have the utmost respect and confidence in us.

Registered Dental Hygienists, who are already primary care providers, are in the perfect position to exponentially INCREASE ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE . With the additional education and skill sets proposed by this Master's of Science degree and certification, the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner will provide health promotion and disease prevention of basic dental procedures and thus save on costs associated with dental care for the patients and the State of Connecticut as well as interception of pain for the patients we will care for. Worldwide, there are over 40 countries today providing these services by a advanced trained dental team members thus increasing access to dental care for their citizens.

I would be honored to discuss HB 5355 and expect your support in delivering more access to dental health care for the citizens of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

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